



FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF WA

CONNECTION, COLLABORATION, RESULTS



Annual Report 2022

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Message from the Chair

The Freight and Logistics Council of Western Australia (the Council) was established in 2009 to provide a high level conduit between industry and the State Government to facilitate improved strategic policy outcomes relating to supply chain efficiency.

Its charter is to provide the Minister for Transport with independent advice on strategic policy issues impacting the delivery of freight and logistics services in Western Australia (WA).

The Council promotes the common interests of those who are engaged in, or interested in, strategic freight and logistics activities in or impacting on WA. The Council's members represent all modes of transport from the freight and logistics industry. State and local government organisations as well as maritime and transport unions also play a role.

When issues are raised with the Council, they are progressed through a process of research and discussion. The research is enabled through the resources of our staff and our membership and the discussion through our broad network of contacts in industry and government at both state and national levels. This dialogue allows a useful exchange of views during policy formulation and encourages industry ownership of subsequent State Government positions.

This report highlights the key activities of the Council during 2022, some of which will be carried forward into 2023. Notwithstanding, the Council showed its agility early in 2022 with the East-West Freight Rail line break for some weeks.

It played a pivotal role in bringing industry together on several occasions with the Minister for Transport in mitigating the impacts of the disruption. This also included contributing to national efforts to develop work around supply chain solutions in terms of coastal shipping and road freight in conjunction with State Government agencies.

The Council was also involved in important state infrastructure programs such as providing input into the land freight access planning for the new Westport. It was also involved in carbon reduction strategies including the State Governments' Sectorial Emission Reduction Strategy (SERS) working closely with the Department of Transport who leads in the transport component of SERS.

It also directly assisted the Shire of Dundas in developing a Freight and Supply Chain Bushfire Management Plan. Given that all strategic East-West road and rail freight moves through this area, the Council saw this as an important project to be involved in.

At a national level, the Council was involved in the continuing development of the Federal Government's Freight Data Hub. The aim is to provide a trusted source of national freight data which will provide a national picture of critical information to keep freight moving, such as where roadworks are occurring or the impact of congestion. It will also forecast freight demand and provide insights into port performance.

Issues such as the attraction/retention of workers as well as shortages of workers in the freight and logistics industry remain omnipresent. Whilst these issues are global, WA faces its own challenges in these areas.

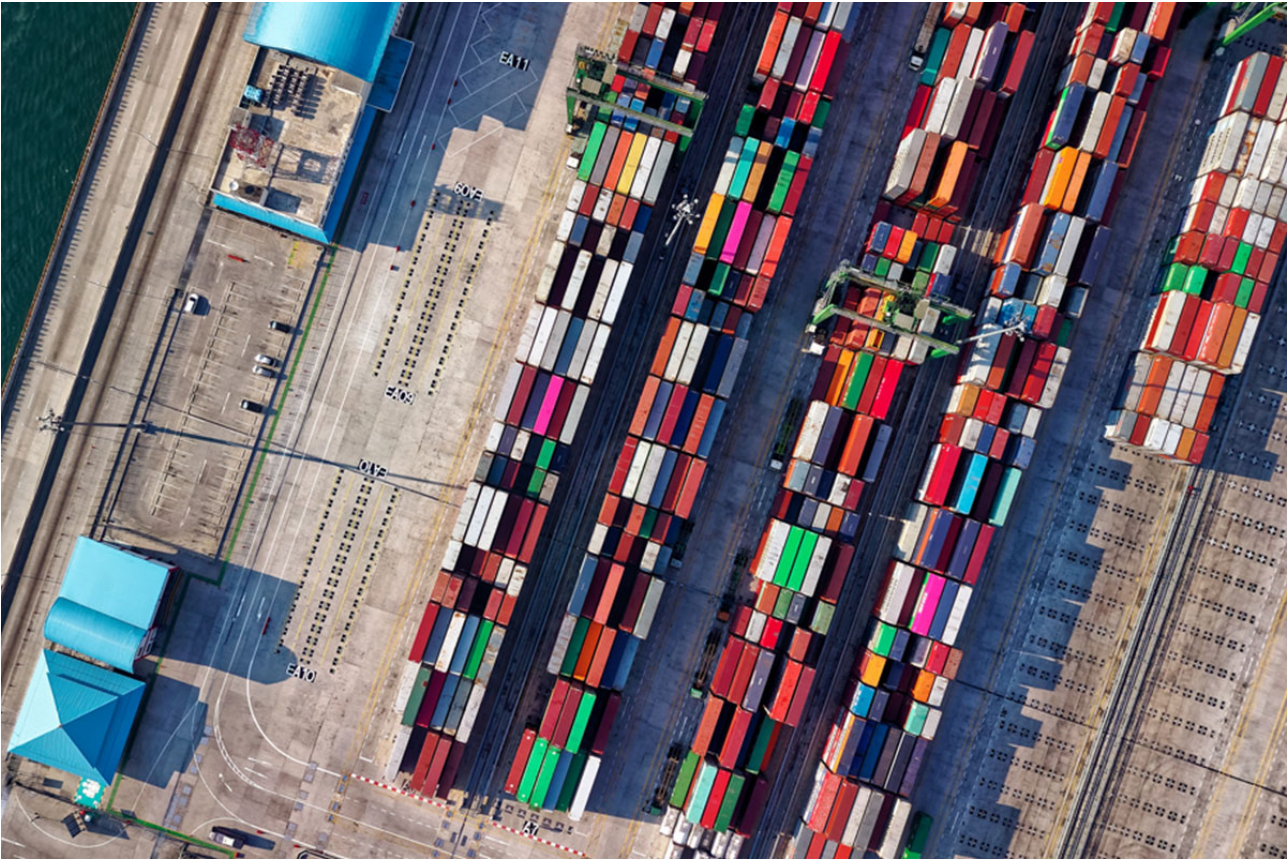
Further issues also present challenges such as decarbonisation of the freight industry and east-west supply chain resilience.

The Council has completed its first year with a new team at the helm with Drew Gaynor and Lynne Karow assisting myself and the Council on matters at hand.

The Freight and Logistics Sector faced challenging circumstances in 2022, and there are other challenges ahead and I look forward to continued engagement with our members, industry and stakeholders on strategic issues impacting the state supply chain into 2023.



Megan McCracken
December 2022



Council Membership and Planning

In January and February 2022, the Council again undertook our collaborative process to develop the annual work program. A planning workshop was held with Council members and the outcomes from the workshop discussion provided input into the development of the Council's 2022 Work Program and the nature of the issues on the work program.

Including its planning session and AGM, the council met six times in 2022. It also invited experts to address the meetings during the year.

The Council is a dynamic group and from year to year membership changes to meet the needs of the challenges ahead. We welcome the following Council members for 2023:

- Centurion Transport
- Fremantle Ports
- ARC Infrastructure
- Perth Airport
- Qube Bulk
- Western Roads Federation
- Transport Workers Union
- Department of Transport
- Co-operative Bulk Handling
- Southern Ports
- WA Local Govt Association
- Maritime Union
- Livestock Rural Transport Assoc of WA
- Watco
- Main Roads WA
- Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Public Transport Authority
- Aurizon
- WA Planning Commission
- Chamber Minerals & Energy WA
- Mediterranean Shipping Company (Aust) Pty Ltd
- StarTrack

We thank LinkWA for their time on the Council supporting the Unified Digital Commercial Movements Platform and the Intermodal planning advice and submission and welcome our new members Mediterranean Shipping Company (Aust) Pty Ltd and StarTrack.

Alliances

In 2021-22, the Council continued its strategic partnership with the Australian Logistics Council (ALC). The mutually recognised partnership provides benefits through working together on common policy issues and having access to national discussions, most recently participation in the Annual Freight Dialogue with the federal government.

It also has close ties with Ports Australia and other state-based freight councils including the NSW Freight Transport Advisory Council, Queensland Transport and Logistics Council and the South Australian Freight Council as well as other associations and industry groups. It also continues to be active in other forums including the Ports Operations Task Force.

Branding and Communications

The Council continued to use its website www.freightandlogisticscouncil.com.au to provide updates to industry on COVID related issues impacting freight.

Our Focus

In any given year, the Council deals with a range of freight and logistic issues. Some are planned while others present themselves during the year. In 2022 the Council reorganised its work program into strategic Issues; standing work items and other activity that came before the Council.

Strategic Issues

High Productivity Vehicle trial to Fremantle Port

The Council undertook to identify constraints and opportunities to maximise industry efficiency through a greater use of rail and more efficient road transport operations and to contain community impacts and improve community amenity.

One area of focus was developing parameters for Government to consider undertaking a High Productivity Vehicle (HPV) trial to Fremantle Port. This is in the context of not impacting on the rail freight service to the Port but seeking intelligence on how best to utilise these vehicles.

The objectives of the trial are:

- industry efficiency
- reduction in heavy vehicle movements
- impact to on-port operations
- impact on rail share (Government's minimum target of 20%) and not compromising an on-rail target
- defined operating standards
- impact on the community

Workforce

The skills and labour shortages in industrialised countries is well documented in the post COVID world. There are many challenges facing all sectors of industry including the freight and logistics sector and much work is being done by industry and governments at jurisdictional and national levels.

The Council is part of this activity and is contributing by identifying key issues and the risk to the freight and logistics industry.

Promoting Freight Efficiency and Safety

The Council has been working on a range of issues to promote more efficient movement of freight whilst not impacting safe operations.

These include:

- identifying bottlenecks on the Restricted Access Vehicle network
- streamlining driver licence requirements for various heavy vehicles and multi-combination vehicles
- Over Size Over Mass escort vehicle requirements
- port – road interfaces at Fremantle Port.

Decarbonisation

The Council is working closely with the State Government on its Sectorial Emissions Reduction Strategy for a reduction in emissions to zero by 2050. The Council is particularly involved in the transport component of this strategy led by the Department of Transport.

Protecting Supply Chains from Bushfires

The Council assisted the Shire of Dundas in developing a Freight and Supply Chain Bushfire Management Plan for the Southern Goldfields. The project will assess the exposure and vulnerability of the strategic supply chains that connect east with west and north with south through the Southern Goldfields.

The Council provided road and rail movements and freight volumes data travelling through the Southern Goldfields. This included East-West and North- South activity.

The project will use cutting edge techniques of earth observation data and machine learning combined with supply chain value/flow analysis to assess supply chain infrastructure exposure and vulnerability to bush fire in the Southern Goldfields.

This is a proof of concept project that will directly deliver the security of supply chain and identify points of failure in supply chain at the community, local government and state levels. Conducted within a sample area in the Shires of Dundas and Coolgardie, it will assess supply chain exposure vulnerability, including interstate and international links, secondary impacts, and upline/downline impacts of bush fire.

This project will generate the evidence required to bring together disparate national, state and local stakeholders to establish common strategies and coordinated action to reduce future supply chain disruption from bush fire in the Southern Goldfields and be included in the Bushfire Risk Management Plans of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Dundas and the plans and programs of key stakeholders.

Standing Work Items

The Council continues to be involved in several ongoing projects of importance. One example is the planning for the new Westport. The Council is involved as a key stakeholder on the Industry Reference Group advising on land access freight challenges to efficiently supply the new port and provides meaningful industry input to ensure that optimal outcomes are achieved including future proofing the port.

The Council is also involved in providing input into freight and logistics infrastructure constraints and challenges. For example, its involvement with the Infrastructure Western Australia's (IWA) investigation into market capacity constraints in the construction industry in delivering infrastructure projects. Like all sectors, supply chain disruptions has also occurred in the construction sector. The Council will be active in a supply chain working group with the IWA through early 2023.

Other activities undertaken include the:

- National Freight Data Hub project
- WA Jobs Taskforce Supply Chain, Freight and Logistics Working Group
- WA Port Operations Taskforce
- WAPOL COVID Industry Liaison Group.

Other Activity

East West Trans Australia Rail Line disruption

In January / February 2022, the Trans-Australian rail line was broken for several weeks due to extensive flooding in South Australia. This presented massive supply chain issues for the state as inventories were not provisioned to accommodate such an unprecedented disruption to a mode of transport that carried most of the land freight to WA.

The Council showed its agility when the Minister for Transport asked the Council to convene several industry – government round tables to provide up to date information on impacts to the state. The Council was also part of a national emergency taskforce made up of government and industry representatives determining work around solutions for the rail disruption including sea and road freight delivery.

Submissions

The Council also submitted a number of submissions to state and national enquiries including:

- WA Shipping and Supply Chain Taskforce
- Road and Rail Supply Chain Resilience Review
- The Transport Co-ordination Act Review

Connection, Collaboration, Results

The role of the Council in creating connections between industry and government and facilitating collaborative approaches to issues to achieve results was highlighted during COVID and the emergence from COVID.

In addition to the key initiatives described above, the Council was involved on a frequent basis with non-project work including brokering outcomes, maintaining and expanding networks, investigating issues of concern to Council stakeholders, providing industry advice to Government on request and ensuring that the Council is regarded across public and private sectors as a 'go to' organisation in respect of all freight and logistics policy issues.

